other special tax on sugar. Furthermore, import of raw sugar & white/refined sugar has been opened to private traders in addition to existing designated agencies and *the levy obligation has been removed in respect of imported sugar.* The future trade of sugar has been suspended up to Dec 2009 in order to keep speculative activities in check.

Development of Haryana SEZ

1373. SHRI AMAR SINGH:

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Haryana SEZ is being developed by a private developer;

(b) the quantum of land acquired by the contractor for the project up till now;

(c) the time-frame by when the project is intended to kick start;

(d) whether there is any delay in the project; and

(e) if so, the details of the penalty clause to be imposed on the contractor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) In terms of SEZ Act, 2005, Special Economic Zones(SEZs) may be established either jointly or severely by the Central Government, State Government or any person. The quantum of land required for setting up of SEZ depends on the sector for which SEZ is being established. So far as the state of Haryana is concerned, 31 SEZs have been notified involving 1351.42 hectares of land.

(c) to (e) In terms of Rule 6 of the SEZ Rules, validity of approval is for a period of three years within which time effective steps are to be taken by the developer to implement the approved proposal. On a request received from the developer, the Board of Approval can extend the validity period upto two years.

Effect of GM rice on exports

1374. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the magnitude of rice exports from India in volume and in value;

(b) what impact would genetically modified rice trials and production have on such an export;

(c) whether India has a ban on genetically modified rice trials in the Basmati belt of the country for protecting our exports from genetically modified contamination; and

(d) if so, why is the same ban not being extended to other rice belts since exports of non-basmati rice is higher in volume and value?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The details of export of rice, both in quantity and value, for the last three years are as under:

(Quantity in lakh MTs, Value in Rs. Crore)

Particular	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Basmati Rice	10.45	2793	11.83	4344	15.56	9477
Non-Basmati Rice	37.02	4243	52.86	7410	9.49	1691

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir, The Government has not allowed GM trials, in the areas of proximity to Basmati growing areas as there is a need to preserve its Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). There is no Commercial production of GM Rice in India.

Relaxation of minimum area stipulation for SEZs in Kerala

1375. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested for relaxation in the minimum area stipulation for Special Economic Zones in the State of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) A request has since received from Government of Kerala to include Kerala in the list of Special Status States that are eligible for relaxed area requirements for setting up Special Economic Zones.

(c) No decision in the matter has since been taken.

NID in Himachal Pradesh

1376. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Institute of Design (NID) in the country;

(b) whether Government proposes to set up more such institutes in the country particularly in Himachal Pradesh during Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the new NIDs are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) At present there is only one National Institute of Design (NID) functioning from three campuses at Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar in Gujarat and at Bengaluru in Karnataka.